

# Gender in Sport Meeting – 25<sup>th</sup> January 2023

## Attendees Focus Group mtg #2

Phil Stanway, Andy Spink, Jo Dalziel, Nick Oram-Tooley  
Vicki Nixon, Gayle Horobin, Isobel Hanmer, Laura Easton, Liz Eastham

## Apologies

Kevin Kimber, Jo Bushill, Helen Davison, Helen Jones, Vicky Soden,

## CC from Focus Group mtg #1

Tamsin Dewe, Pierre Roux, Louisa Johnston, Emma Bray, Emma Tweed

## Updates from meeting on 29.09.22

- Developing Girls football
  - A working group of keen female footballers was created by Andy after the last meeting. They became ambassadors, voiced their thoughts and were able to recruit more players.
  - Key finding is they wanted to play away from the boys, not on Astro, when we facilitated this the numbers increased significantly.
  - Specific girls football ECA's running from year 4-10 (between 3-40 girls in regular attendance)
  - Senior ECA has external female coach who was a former elite player
  - We have entered the ISFA regional tournament in May
  - Several matches have already been played and there are a further 8+ planned for this term
- Frensham Heights PE & Games philosophy document
  - Phil has produced the FH PE and Games philosophy document and it has been distributed to all current and previous Gender in Sport focus group attendees. The feedback received has been very positive. There are a few more additions to be made and then the document can be made available to the wider parent body.

## Gender Neutral/Gender Specific PE and Games

- Junior School
  - All Games and PE lessons are mixed gender
- Senior School
  - Games lessons are mixed gender and PE lessons are split
  - Any students wishing to play in the group other than their gender at birth are welcome to by agreement with the PE Dept
  - Both mixed and single sex teams will be fielded in fixtures as appropriate and cohort led (eg. mixed Cricket and Hockey and single sex teams for both boys and girls in Rugby and Football)

## PE kit

- The PE kit is currently under review, for example Phil is looking into alternatives to the quarter zip fleece
- Although there are a wide number of kit options available on School Blazer, there are only a limited number of items that are essential.
- Any Frensham Heights branded sweatshirts or hoodies can be worn (eg the tour hoodies)
- The only requirement for socks, underlayer, shorts and joggers are that they are black or navy.
- Students are free to choose from the girls or boys items
- Andy is looking into sourcing a new FH girls football kit
- Jo is looking into sourcing shorts and sticky bib t-shirt combos for netball. The existing netball dresses will not be taken away as any changes to the kit will be phased in organically from the younger years up.

## Gender Stereotypes

- Topics such as breaking down stereotypes and encouraging a sense of identity and personal expression are being incorporated into horizons lessons in both the Junior and Senior school.
- Frensham still have more to do in tackling Gender in Sport but they have already come a long way. The new generation of students coming through the junior school are experiencing far more choice and with the removal of some of the more traditional barriers they are starting to successfully break down the more outdated stereotypes.
- Frensham Heights values form the backbone of the PE and Sports philosophy. Choice, Respect, Individuality, Courage to try are therefore all key drivers when making decisions.

## Variety of Sports on Offer

- The PE and Games activities in Years N – 4 are widely mixed and varied. The focus at this age being on exploration and developing skills.
- From Y5 the activities in PE and Games tend to be more cohort led, with the students having more say in what they do.
- Students are encouraged to speak up if they have any sport requests or suggestions. Wherever there is enough interest and it is practical and possible the PE Dept are happy to be flexible.
- From Y5 up students are able to choose from either the competitive team fixtures or non-competitive multi activity options.
- Those students choosing the competitive option are strongly encouraged to sign up for the relevant ECA for training. Information on which competitive sport choices will be available the following term will be included in the ECA booklet so that students can consider that when making their choices.

## Reporting

- It was suggested that as there is such a wide variety of sports available at Frensham it would be helpful if the reports could grade the students progress in all the sports they are taking part in that term. Currently the grading only reflects the students progress in the specific PE activity for the term.

## Next steps

- Phil to establish the girls football season so as to avoid conflict with other sports.  
This will be implemented for next calendar year to give Phil a chance to liaise with other Directors of Sport and see if its possible to coordinate seasons and work together to establish a regular group of fixtures.
- Phil to finalise the FH PE and Games philosophy document and make a few additions and edits, including:-
  - Add reference to students wishing to play in competitive fixtures signing up to the relevant ECAs for training
  - Explaining the choice of sports available and how they are set (eg skills and exploration from N-3 and cohort led from 4-13).
- Andy to source Girls football kit
- Jo to source Girls netball kit
- Phil to continue PE kit review
- Phil to clarify which items of the PE kit are essential, particularly with new starters
- Andy to add reference to competitive sport options for the next term in the ECA booklet in order to encourage students to sign up for training
- Phil to consider if reporting could incorporate more of the sports that each student is taking part in that term.